

OCA FILE

RECPT #

Record

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NOTE TO: The Director
The Deputy Director

FROM: Dave Gries *DG*

SUBJECT: Home-to-Work Chauffeur Driven Cars

A staffer on Senator Roth's Governmental Affairs Committee has just called to say that OMB, with White House support, has asked the Committee to put together a draft bill that would eliminate home-to-work cars for all deputy secretaries and deputy directors around the government. The bill would affect around 50 departments and agencies.

Fortunately, the amendment we wrote three months ago when the first version of this bill appeared is included in the OMB draft. The amendment explicitly preserves the DCI's Section 8 authorities, and it is our preliminary view--which OGC is now checking--that the DCI can use Section 8 to order home-to-work transportation for the DDCI on grounds of terrorist and other threats.

Another portion of the draft bill allots 11 additional home-to-work cars to the White House, where there are already around 18.

OMB and Senator Roth are apparently following a legislative strategy that calls for keeping the bill quiet until the last few days of the anticipated conference on a Continuing Resolution. They would then dump the bill into the Continuing Resolution before the 50 affected agencies could protest.

Obviously, OMB and White House are after 11 additional home-to-work cars, and the Governmental Affairs Committee is after a bill that would appear to save taxpayers some money.

If OGC agrees that Section 8 protects the DDCI's situation, then we have two options:

--Do nothing on grounds that our own interests can be accommodated through Section 8;

--Get the word out to some of the 50 other affected departments and agencies, and let them raise sufficient objection to stall or stop the bill.

If OGC is confident that Section 8 is applicable, I recommend Option 1.

It is somewhat incredible that the White House thinks it needs nearly 30 home-to-work cars, while large agencies like Defense, State and CIA, not to mention large domestic agencies like HHS, Treasury and Commerce, can get along with one car each.

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